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# **GORKIY AIRFRAME PLANT ORDZHONIKDZE 21 (S)**

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**STRATEGIC WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES  
USSR  
JUNE 1979**

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RCA-09/0015/79

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME					COUNTRY
Gorkiy Airframe Plant Ordzhonikdze 21					UR
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CATEGORY	BE NO.	COMIREX NO.	NIETB NO.
NA	56-19-16N 043-51-00E				
MAP REFERENCE					
DMAAC. USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0154-25, scale 1:200,000					
LATEST IMAGERY USED			NEGATION DATE (If required)		
[REDACTED]			NA		

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### ABSTRACT

1. (TSR) This report updates NPIC report [REDACTED] on Gorkiy Airframe Plant Ordzhonikdze 21 in the USSR. It describes the limited amount of construction completed at the plant and the upgrading of Gorkiy/Sormovo Airfield, both since [REDACTED] the information cutoff date of the previous report. It also discusses production of FISHBED and FOXBAT aircraft and reviews the activity of COCK aircraft at the plant. 25X1

2. (TSR) This report contains two annotated photographs. One photograph depicts construction at the plant and is keyed to a table of mensural and chronological data. The other photograph shows the construction at Gorkiy/Sormovo Airfield. The information cutoff date for this report is [REDACTED] 25X1

### BASIC DESCRIPTION

#### Construction at Plant 21

3. (TSR) Relatively little construction has taken place at Gorkiy Plant 21 since [REDACTED] A total of [REDACTED] of floorspace has been completed, which represents an increase in total floorspace of 7.3 percent. Of the total floorspace constructed, [REDACTED] are contained in an addition to the final assembly portion of an assembly building (Item 34e, Figure 1 and Table 1). The other completed construction consists of buildings and additions ancillary to the production process (Table 1 and Figure 1). 25X1

#### Gorkiy/Sormovo Airfield

4. (TSR) The capabilities of this flyaway airfield were upgraded in two ways in the last six and one-half years. An RSNB-4N short-range navigation system was installed in the same vicinity as the HAY series equipment (Figure 2), and the runway was lengthened by 1,009 meters, making the new length 3,048 meters. Seven small storage/support buildings (items 1 through 7, Figure 2) and a tow circle were also completed.

#### FISHBED Production

5. [REDACTED] FISHBED (MIG-21) aircraft production at Plant 21 may be decreasing. As shown on Table 2, FISHBED aircraft sightings at the flyaway field reached a peak in the first half of 1975 and reached a secondary peak in the first half of 1977. Since 1977, the number of sightings has gradually declined. The number of FISHBED aircraft sightings reached a low mean of 9.5 aircraft in late 1978, the lowest since 1973 when the mean was 9.0. Although a total of 32 FISHBED were seen at Gorkiy/Sormovo Airfield on [REDACTED], which could indicate that any decrease in production was only temporary, the following three factors seem to indicate that production of FISHBED aircraft will continue at a greatly reduced level or possibly cease at Gorkiy. 25X1

- Late model FISHBED AND FISHBED Type D fuselage shipping containers were identified recently at Tbilisi Airframe Plant 31 [REDACTED],<sup>2</sup> suggesting that assembly or production may be in the process of being shifted there; 25X1
- The number of FISHBED fuselage shipping containers observed at Plant 21 has been decreasing for the past year, although a total of 24 crates (17 type D and 7 type C) were observed on [REDACTED] and 25X1

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- c. A requirement exists for additional room for the modified-FOXBAT program at Gorkiy should it begin by 1981, as has been predicted.<sup>3</sup>

### FOXBAT Aircraft Production

6. [REDACTED] Production of the FOXBAT (MIG-25)—models A, B, C, and D—was continuing at Plant 21. In 1978, the production rate appeared to decline. The number of FOXBAT aircraft produced per month was approximately six, a decline from 1977 when the average was seven.<sup>3</sup> The large numbers of FOXBAT observed on imagery at the flyaway airfield during parts of 1978 would apparently dispute this average; however, those unusually high numbers included some aircraft returned to the plant for limited modification.<sup>2</sup>

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**Table 1.**  
**Buildings and Structures at**  
**Gorkiy Airframe Plant Ordzhonikdze 21**

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Item	Description/Function	Dimensions (m)			Floorspace (sq m)	Date Observed Complete	Remarks
		L	W	H			
25b	Addition to carpentry shop						Ucon
33	Admin engr bldg						4 stories
34	Final assembly bldg						
e	Addition to final assembly sec						
f	Admin/engr sec						5 stories
41b	Transshipment						
63	Stor bldg						
64	Stor bldg						Quonset type
65	Stor bldg						Ucon
66	Stor bldg						Quonset type
67	Warehouse						
a	Admin sec						
b	Warehouse sec						2 stories
68	Support bldg						
69	Stor bldg						Quonset type
70	Stor bldg						Quonset type
71	Stor bldg						Quonset type
72	Shop bldg						
a	Admin sec						
b	Shop sec						
73	Assembly bldg						Ucon
74	Stor bldg						
75	Admin/engr bldg						Ucon
76	Support bldg						
77	Support bldg						
78	Support bldg						
a	Sec						
b	Sec						
79	Shop bldg						
80	Stor bldg						Quonset type
81	Support bldg						
82	Shop bldg						
83	Vehicle stor bldg						
84	Support bldg						
85	Admin/lab bldg						
86	Support bldg						
Total floorspace completed by Jul 72							
Total floorspace completed between Jul 72 and Mar 79							
Total floorspace completed							
Total floorspace ucon							

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**Table 2.**  
Statistics on FISHBED Sightings at  
Gorkiy Airframe Plant Ordzhonikdze 21

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Time Period	Mean No of FISHBED Observed	Standard Deviation in Mean No of FISHBED Observed	Number of Usable Coverages
Aug 72 to Jan 73	15.6	9.6	5
Feb 73 to Jul 73	13.3	7.1	7
Aug 73 to Jan 74	9.0	4.7	4
Feb 74 to Jul 74	17.3	6.5	8
Aug 74 to Jan 75	15.0	4.2	2
Feb 75 to Jul 75	37.0	2.4	5
Aug 75 to Jan 76	19.2	13.0	5
Feb 76 to Jul 76	16.0	5.9	5
Aug 76 to Jan 77	23.0	0	2
Feb 77 to Jul 77	35.3	5.8	6
Aug 77 to Jan 78	18.7	4.2	3
Feb 78 to Jul 78	15.5	5.2	11
Aug 78 to Oct 78	9.5	5.3	7
Nov 78 to Mar 79	—	—	0

**Table 3.**  
FOXBAT Sightings at Gorkiy Plant 21 and  
Flyaway Airfield in 1978

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Date	Number Observed
	21
	27
	(highest count ever)
	20
	14
	12
	13
	15
	12
	17
	16
	16
	13
	13
	15
	14
	15
	7
	7
	6

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Table 3 shows that on the last three coverages in 1978, the number of FOXBAT aircraft observed at the plant/flyaway airfield had decreased to a level commensurate with the production estimate. FOXBAT aircraft production will probably continue at Plant 21 for the near future, but the level may continue to decrease. FOXBAT B and D aircraft have continued to be delivered to frontal aviation units. However, although FOXBAT A is now being exported, no recent deliveries have

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been noted to APVO units. It is possible that, other than aircraft for export, the only FOXBAT A aircraft being produced are for use as replacement aircraft. If production and deployment of the modified FOXBAT begin by 1981 as expected,<sup>3</sup> then the need for continued production of replacement FOXBAT A aircraft would decrease, thus causing a decrease in total FOXBAT production.

### COCK Aircraft Activity at Gorkiy/Sormovo Airfield

7. [ ] COCK (AN-22) aircraft activity were seen at Gorkiy/Sormovo Airfield ten times during this reporting period. COCK aircraft were observed on two occasions in 1976, [ ] (one present on each occasion). The other eight sightings were all in 1978- [ ] (two present); [ ] (one present). COCK aircraft sightings at this airfield can generally be correlated with the transportation of FOXBAT aircraft into and out of the plant. In April of 1978, when unusually high counts of FOXBAT aircraft were observed at the airfield because of their return for modification, COCK aircraft were observed twice. In July, when FOXBAT aircraft were beginning to be shipped to Okba Ibn Nafa Airfield ( [ ] in Libya, COCK aircraft were sighted at Gorkiy/Sormovo Airfield four times and subsequently at Okba Ibn Nafa Airfield. Although imagery interpretability [ ] another source reported that the FOXBAT aircraft were transported in COCK aircraft directly from Gorkiy to Libya.<sup>2</sup>

### REFERENCES

#### IMAGERY

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery of suitable interpretability acquired from [ ] was used in the preparation of this report.

#### MAPS OR CHARTS

DMAAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0154-25, scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

#### DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. [ ] RCA-09/0011/73, *Gorkiy Airframe Plant Ordzhonikdze 21*, Oct 72 (TOP SECRET [ ]) 25X1
2. NPIC. [ ] RCA-09/0009/79, *Tbilisi Airframe Plant 31 and Tbilisi/Soganlug Airfield*, Apr 79, (TOP SECRET [ ]) 25X1
3. DIA. [ ] DDB-1923-2A-78-SAO, *Foreign Aircraft Production (FOAP), Communist World (U)*, Dec 78 (TOP SECRET RUFF [ ]) 25X1

#### REQUIREMENT

COMIREX J02

Project 290036DJ

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [ ] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [ ]

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